

Application Serial No. 10/524,498
Reply to Office Action of March 8, 2007

PATENT
Docket: CU-4061

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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APPLICANT: Peter Rohrig) Group Art Unit: 3677
SERIAL NO: 10/524,498) Examiner: Ruth C. Rodriguez
FILED: February 14, 2005) **EXPEDITED PROCEDURE**
TITLE: CLIP FOR A DUMMY STRAP) **AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL**

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Julie L. Langdon

RESPONSE TO OFFICE ACTION

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated March 8, 2007 and having a shortened statutory period for reply set to expire on June 8, 2007. Applicant submits the following response in the above-identified application. Also submitted with this response is a Request for 1-month Extension with the required fees, to extend the period of reply to July 8, 2007. Applicant believes this amendment places the application in better condition for allowance.

In the Office Action, dated March 8, 2007, the Examiner states that Claims 1-15 are pending and Claims 1-15 are rejected. Claims 1-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Cameron (U.S. 5,388,313) in view of Ozaki (U.S. 5,277,345). The Applicant respectfully disagrees with and transposes this rejection.

The present invention claims a U-shaped pacifier strap clip which is a two-component injection molded member with a surface of at least one clamping region

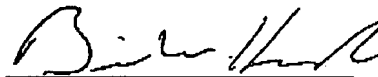
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at least partially being made of material having a lower hardness than the material of the clamping parts. Neither Cameron nor Ozaki disclose similar inventions. Cameron merely discloses a U-shaped clip device for use with suspenders. It does not disclose a clamping region consisting of a material having a lower hardness than the material of the clamping parts. Furthermore, Ozaki discloses a dress hanger having a clip which is completely different than the clip claimed in the present invention. Ozaki discloses that tubes 14, made of a heat-shrinkable synthetic resin, are shrunk by heating to fix them to a clamping region of clip 11. Therefore, unlike the present invention, Ozaki does not disclose a two-component injection molded piece. The importance of the two-component injection molded piece is that the two components are non-detachably connected to each other, providing a strong connection between the two components. Such a strong connection between the softer material components and the harder material component is important in products which are used by infants because an infant can easily swallow loosely connected pieces. For example, in the invention disclosed in Ozaki, an infant playing with the clip may easily swallow the tube 14 if it is loosely connected to the clamping part. Such a two-component injection molded member, as claimed in the present invention, is neither anticipated by nor rendered obvious by the cited prior art documents. Therefore, the claimed invention is patentable over the cited prior art documents.

In light of the foregoing response, all the outstanding objections and rejections are considered overcome. Applicant respectfully submits that this application should now be in condition for allowance and respectfully requests favorable consideration.

Respectfully submitted,



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July 5, 2007

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